

One day strike by Government employees

1326. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 95 lacs Central and State Government employees have observed a day's country-wide strike on July 25, 2001, to protest against the privatisation of Government work and corporation of Government departments; and

(b) if so Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to allay fears of the Government employees over the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Some sections of the employees from Central Government and various State Governments had observed a strike on July 25, 2001 to protest *inter-alia* against the privatization of Government functions and corporation of Government departments; and

(b) With the object of promoting harmonious relations and of securing the greatest measures of cooperation between the Government, in its capacity as employer, and the general body of its employees, Government had, in consultation with the Staff Side, established in 1966 the scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government employees. Under this Scheme, a well-defined machinery already exists to settle matters of common concern, including service conditions of employees and other related issues, through the process of negotiation and arbitration. The staff have already given an agenda item on these issues for the next meeting.